

As near as can be learned, Oom Paul's peace overtures are all made with a gun.

The chances are 16 to 1 that Admiral Dewey did not send a message of congratulation to Bryan.

Strikes are plentiful in the East but that is no reflection on the times. Strikes come easy when every striker is sure of another job.

When both our money and our mails are contaminated at the leper settlement it is no wonder that the scaly plague hangs on. Isn't it time to rid Hawaii of the dread disease? Or is it too good a thing, officially and commercially, to maintain a perpetual leper town on Molokai?

The Reuter telegram which carried the news of the Hoboken fire to China, Australia and the Cape put the monetary damage at \$2,000,000 and the loss of life at eighty. This is nearer the truth than Reuter usually gets though it discounts the losses by at least \$8,000,000 and 250 lives.

Editor Advertiser: Why don't you turn in and do a little boasting over your numerous "scops" and special excellences and exclusive publications? That is the only fault I find with the old Advertiser—it never cackles when it lays an egg.

Thanks. The Advertiser prefers to let its readers do the boasting for it.

The business of this port has long needed a new and a first-class tug. As will be seen in another column the Spreckels' will send down the best tug in San Francisco harbor, their new and powerful Fearless. In speed, steaming radius and other essentials of a deep-sea tugboat, the Fearless is queen of her class.

The recent ruling of Judge Humphreys that lawyers shall not be permitted to use up small estates in fees, is one of the most popular decisions of the bench. If an estate is little the legal expenses caused in closing it up should be little too. That is simply fair play though lawyers often need a judicial admonition before they realize it.

The listing of sugar stocks in the New York market would undoubtedly be a good thing for those who have them for sale. As Col. Macfarlane points out, the local and San Francisco markets are congested and the offer of a \$100,000 block of stock, even of a dividend-paying plantation, may cause prices to fall. In New York millions could change hands without bringing on a bear movement.

The Independent is marking out a lively program for the Legislature. It now threatens, in case the United States Government persists in its unholy plan to protect the mails from leprosy, to have the Legislature set the lepers free. Undoubtedly this will cow the Washington Government or if not, perhaps the threat to interfere with the free importation of labor from the mainland may. As a last resort there is Kaula with his resolution to restore the Queen. Evidently the Federal Government is in for a hard time with the Territorial Legislature but if so it can only blame itself. It would have its way about annexation and now see what it gets.

WAR CORRESPONDENTS' MORTALITY.

The corps which has suffered most in the Boer war in proportion to its active membership is that of the correspondents. G. W. Stevens and Mr. Mitchell died at Ladysmith of fever; E. G. Parslow was murdered at Mafeking; Alfred Ferrand was killed at Ladysmith and E. Finley Knight wounded at Belmont, where he had his arm amputated; Winston Churchill was captured and escaped; Mr. Lambie was killed at Rensburg; Messrs. Hellewell, Lynch and Hales were captured; Charles Hands and Julian Ralph were severely wounded. The mortality among correspondents in the Russo-Bosnian war was sixty per cent and in the Sino-Japanese war about thirty-five per cent. We are not advised as to the figures of the Spanish-American and the Philippine wars though the list of press casualties must be large.

Although it used to be the notion, sedulously cultivated by the journals which could not afford to be enterprising, that war correspondents stayed in the rear of armies writing the camp gossip of fights they had not witnessed, the truth is that they run more risks than an equal number of active soldiers do. Take a battle, for example. When the enemy assaults the center of the line, the correspondents ride there and get under fire, where they can see things. If the attack shifts to the right they go there, leaving the soldiers of the center formation to rest at ease; then if the enemy strikes at the left, the correspondents ride that way at a headlong gallop. As a result each correspondent gets into three battles to each soldier's one.

Emulation among the news-seekers leads them to take extraordinary risks in the private quest of news, especially as scouts. The location of an enemy's outpost is not precisely known. The boldest correspondents make up their minds to find it out first, and the victims of their General's command are distracted by the sight of stealthy civilians, armed with passes they must respect, making their way into the closest proximity to the enemy's lines.

Much that the pressmen do is foolhardy, but the esprit du corps of these writers, due to mutual watchfulness and criticism, to the professional fear of being beaten by a rival and being recalled in disgrace by the managing editor at home, makes them accept any risk which leaves a loophole of escape. The result is fatal to large numbers of them; but, as Bismarck used to say, "When an omelet is to be made some eggs must be broken." People must know what is going on though the narrator falls by the way.

Whether the rural districts of these islands would be benefited by the erection of municipalities at Hilo and Honolulu. At present the territorial revenues from these cities go into a common pool from which urban and suburban taxpayers get their shares of money to be expended upon public works. If a road system were built on modern lines all over Maui or Kauai, for example, the cost would be nearly half defrayed by the two big towns of the group. That is because those towns pay no inconsiderable part of the taxes that make up the general fund. But under the municipal and county systems each separate body of taxpayers must devote its money in the main to purely local needs, which means that about half a million dollars of the present revenues would find their way into the city treasuries of Honolulu and Hilo. Naturally the rural taxes, providing the people went in for public works such as village street improvements, water works, county roads and the like would have to be quadrupled and we should soon see all the rural districts carrying a heavy bonded debt.

From the point of view of citizens of Honolulu and Hilo a municipal form of government would enable them to save their large revenues for their own use, except the small percentage that goes to the support of the Territorial Government and the Legislature. At the same time the body of taxpayers would be vastly increased. In the place of a Superintendent of Public Works we might expect to get a Board of Public Works; in place of an Attorney General having oversight of police business we would probably have a Board of Police Commissioners. Municipal charters always multiply offices because the people who, as a rule, want city governments, who do the most to get them and who commonly succeed in the effort are after patronage to use in politics. They create as many offices as they dare to, inclusive of Boards of Aldermen and an enlarged police force. County government with its big personnel is also implied. So even though there is more money to spend there are more people on whom to spend it; and as a usual thing, no matter what civic revenues may grow to be, an eventual deficit is created. Where is the municipality with a surplus? The politicians who hold the offices naturally want to be re-elected; to be re-elected they must give jobs to "the push"; to give jobs to "the push" they must go extensively into public works without reference to the need of them. A municipal debt follows but the bad political effect of this is generally neutralized by a bonding program in which the burden of payment is foisted on posterity.

The question comes down to this: Do we need three sets of officials, territorial, county and municipal, when we are getting along nicely with one set? Do we want county and municipal government badly enough to permit taxes, in town and country, to be quadrupled? Are we willing to indulge the luxury of a swollen pay roll to be used in the political undertakings of bosses. Furthermore is it not common sense to let well enough alone?

DEALING WITH LEPROSY.

In an attempt to dissuade Special Agent Flint from doing his duty in regard to leper correspondence, the Independent says:

We approve of segregation from a purely scientific point of view because we would not wish to see our streets filled by lepers as the streets of Naples are by beggars covered with hideous noses and deformities. But we want the lepers treated in all respects as free citizens, and if an attempt is made to tamper with their mail and to deprive them of the sacred secrecy of a letter, we predict that the first Territorial Legislature will repeal the laws relating to the segregation of lepers.

The threat is an empty one. No Legislature would challenge the wrath of this community by passing such a law; and even if the community was not able and willing to protect itself from lepers and from an incendiary Legislature, Congress would speedily come to its aid with a law making lepers a Federal charge. As a further result of that policy we should probably find Kalaupapa converted into a detention camp for lepers from every part of the United States and possibly from the West and East Indian possessions. We can assure the Independent that its Legislature if it gets one, will not be permitted either to free lepers among clean people in these Islands nor to place them where they could infect the world's routes of travel. Nor will the United States Government permit any one to poison the mails—no matter what sympathy their cases may excite.

The time has come to stop the spread of leprosy in these Islands by making segregation segregate. We approve Mr. Flint's program on that account. It is time and high time to exclude the white plague from the mails; to stop the intermingling on the wharf of the clean and unclean when the leper steamer calls for its Detention Camp consignments; and it is time to be drastic in other respects one of which the Independent reveals in this passage.

We will not enter on a discussion whether germs of leprosy may be spread through letters written by lepers to their friends. Mr. Flint believes they can, and the greatest medical authorities say they cannot. But how about money—paper or coin—which the lepers own and forward to their families for their support or for buying supplies for them. How about the money paid into the stores at Kalaupapa by lepers and remitted to Honolulu? Will it be necessary to have an "amanuensis" to handle the coin or should a branch of the United States Mint be established at the Settlement? A letter sent from a leper to one person can never spread as many germs, as the money which will be circulated among thousands of people. It is well known that money is the great medium for the spreading of contagious diseases, and yet it has never been suggested to deprive the lepers of their money and prevent them from making their remittances. We presume the Special Agent will also stop those suffering from consumption from writing letters, except per amanuensis.

The Advertiser had not imagined that money in circulation here may have passed current but a few days before in the leper colony. If the statement is true, as it doubtless is, we can begin to account for the fact that the rate of leprosy contagion shows no signs of abatement. Things will be worse when paper money obtains freer circulation here, but they are bad enough now. We segregate the leper but we guard no one against his bacilli. It is time to segregate the bacilli and if the next Legislature refuses to do it, Congress should be appealed to.

Hawaii did well in dealing with the plague, which had less than one hundred victims. But it only temporized with a more deadly malady that has its thousands of victims. The fashion is not to mention these things in print but it is a fashion more honored in the breach than the observance. We must not hesitate any more with leprosy than we have with other deadly maladies.

When the war is over in China the position of the missionaries will be better than ever before. After the punishment which followed the massacre of nuns at Tien-Tsin in 1860, religious work went on for many years without interruption. If the powers do their duty now the era of missionary persecution will end for good.

If the Testa-Kaula Legislature, which we believe is already elected, doesn't intend to let the United States government have anything to say about these Islands it ought to warn McKinley in time and not keep the poor man in suspense.

There won't be sackcloth and ashes enough to go around among annexation Democrats when they realize that Hawaiian votes compelled the Democracy to walk the free silver plank again.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Minister Conger.

Edwin Hurd Conger, United States Minister at Peking, under whose care American marines have been landed for the protection of American interests against the Boxers, was born in Knox county, Ill., March 7, 1843. He was educated at Lombard University, graduating in the class of 1862. He enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Second Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He served with this regiment until the close of the Civil War, rising to the rank of Captain, and receiving from the President the brevet of Major "for gallant and meritorious conduct in the field."

Magnanimous Roberts.

The best of all the handsome tributes that are being paid to General Lord Roberts nowadays comes from his vanquished foes. Here is an instance of his magnanimity, shown to Commandant Wolmarans, who was captured with Cronje:

"To Commandant Wolmarans—I have much pleasure in acceding to your request to be allowed to keep your horse, which you have ridden for so many years, and have given orders that it should be sent with you to Cape Town, and kept at Government expense until your release.

"ROBERTS, F. M."

Might Have Saved Them.

Charles C. Steiner, a New York artist, and his wife, who was Jennie Flanders, have died in Mexico, where they went some time ago when Mr. Steiner received an order to decorate the walls of the palace of Chapultepec. His success had led to their making their home in Jalapa. There was a visitation of smallpox in that town, and Mr. Steiner, disbelieving in vaccination, would not be vaccinated when his wife was, and he was taken with the disease and died May 7th. Mrs. Steiner died of grief twenty days later.

Lafayette Dollars Are Costly.

If you want to buy Lafayette dollars in New York you must pay \$2.50 to \$3 apiece for them. They are quoted at those prices in Wall street. There are only about 2,000 of the dollars available for the entire country, so that New York quotations will probably prevail everywhere.

Top Notch in Immigration.

High water mark was reached in immigration last week at the port of New York, 15,000 strangers having arrived. Forty per cent of the newcomers are Italians, and most of them expect to work on the rapid transit tunnel.

Stood Starvation Well.

Four miners were entombed for 12 days in the Matsuyasu colliery in Japan lately. They did without food all the time, and for most of the time without light, and were none the worse when dug out.

Oranges as a Deodorizer.

Dried orange peel, allowed to smolder on a piece of red-hot iron or an old shovel, will kill any bad odor and leave a fragrant one behind.

TIMELY TOPICS.

A great deal of promising laundry talent is going astray in China.—Baltimore American.

Somebody is writing about "How the Turk Works." One of his ways is to work Uncle Sam.—The Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Republican convention of 1907 administered to Theodore Roosevelt a large, bitter pill, heavily sugar-coated.—The Philadelphia Ledger.

In dividing the profits of Christianizing China it is believed that Russia will consent to take the territory and permit the other nations to have the converts.—The Milwaukee Sentinel.

Nobody will question the accuracy of Mayor Van Wyck's statement that his purchase of ice stock was "not a big transaction." It was about the smallest transaction on record.—The New York World.

Presbyterian.—"Now the time limit is abolished, how will you Methodists get rid of a clergyman when you don't like him?" Methodist: "Oh, I suppose we shall have to let off his pay and starve him out, as other sects do."—The Indianapolis Journal.

Mr. Joseph F. Maloney of Lynn, Massachusetts, is the candidate of the Socialist Labor party for President. Mr. Maloney's name begins and ends properly for a presidential nominee, but the middle of it stands most dismally and discouragingly alone.—The Chicago Tribune.

NOT ADMITTED.

Her Husband (annoyed).—You buy so many things you don't want! Mrs. Bargyn-Hunter (sweetly).—Not at all! Indeed, I doubt if there is any such thing.

Necessity Knows No Law.

But a law of Nature bows to the necessity of keeping the blood pure so that the entire system shall be strong, healthy and vigorous.

To take Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier, is therefore a law of health and it is a necessity in nearly every household. It never disappoints.

Blood Disorders.—"My step-daughter and I have both been troubled greatly with blood disorders and stomach troubles, and several bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla have been of great benefit." James F. Thompson, Wilmington, Ohio.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints

Hood's Pills cure liver bile; the non-irritating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

A COUGH CURED

If this could be said of all cough medicines there would be no need to study out a new formula.

Many however bring about a certain amount of relief and many more claim to cure, but effect none.

Cummins' Cough Cure

has never failed to cure. In its manufacture no attempt has been made to cheapen its cost by the use of inferior qualities of medicine.

We believe this is the reason for its success.

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HOLLISTER DRUG CO.

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KAIULANI DRIVE—tly termed, the via Ma-ima or Grand Boulevard access to all points, as also scenic and marine views exquisite grandeur at every turn.

Electric Railway.

Contracts have been let for material, and the work of construction, equipping and installation placed in the hands of a competent electrical engineer to be fully completed by June 1st. Having an independent power plant we are prepared to furnish electric power for lighting, heating and other purposes, to our home builders at most reasonable rates.

As Promised.

Our reservoirs are now completed and water mains laid so as to supply each lot. Permits for making water connections will be granted on application. An inspection of the attractive homes now building or the names of purchasers of lots, will convince anyone that PACIFIC HEIGHTS is the choicest and most select of all the residence sites of Honolulu.

For further information, prices, terms, etc., apply at office of

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